

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 ACDA-19 STR-08 CEA-02 IO-14 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 066122

R 231531Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 703

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS VIENNA 9702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

REF: VIENNA 9407

SUMMARY: AUSTRIA HAS IMPOSED 100 KILOMETER SPEED LIMIT
TO CONSERVE FUEL BUT SO FAR IS REFRAINING FROM MORE DRAS-
TIC MEASURES. THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT EFFECT OF GERMAN
SUNDAY DRIVING PROHIBITION ON AUSTRIAN TOURIST INDUSTRY
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AS WELL AS FUTURE SUPPLIES OF REFINED PRODUCTS FROM

GERMANY AND ITALY. END SUMMARY.

1. EFFECTIVE SAT, NOV 24, GOA HAS IMPOSED 100 KM. GENERAL SPEED LIMIT IN AUSTRIA. ALL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ORDERED TO REDUCE TEMPERATURES TO 20 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. IN ANNOUNCING THESE MEASURES TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER STATED THAT GOVERNMENT NOT AT PRESENT CONSIDERING PROHIBITION OF SUNDAY DRIVING. QUESTION IS BEING ASKED INCREASINGLY IN AUSTRIA, HOWEVER, HOW LONG AUSTRIA CAN REFRAIN FROM SUNDAY DRIVING PROHIBITION IN VIEW OF FACT THAT NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING NEIGHBORING SWITZERLAND, GERMANY AND ITALY HAVE ALREADY DONE SO. AUSTRIANS ARE WORRIED ABOUT IMPACT OF GERMAN PROHIBITION ON ALL-IMPORTANT TOURIST INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY IN WESTERN AUSTRIA.

2. AUSTRIA'S MAIN CONCERN IN OIL SITUATION NOW IS SUPPLIES OF REFINED OIL PRODUCTS FROM GERMANY AND ITALY, UPON WHICH WESTERN AND SOUTHERN AUSTRIA DEPEND HEAVILY. SITUATION RE ITALY IS UNCLEAR. ITALIANS REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM OF LICENSING ON EXPORTS WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO INSURE THAT NORMAL SUPPLIES TO AUSTRIA WOULD CONTINUE. THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY LICENSES. ITALIAN EMBASSY HERE NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER DELAYS ARE ONLY BUREAUCRATIC OR WHETHER ITALIANS DELIBERATELY NOT ISSUING LICENSES.

3. GOA CONCERN ABOUT SUPPLY SITUATION RE GERMANY EVIDENCED BY POINTED PUBLIC REMARK BY FINANCE MINISTER YESTERDAY THAT GERMANY RECEIVES MUCH OF ITS CRUDE OIL THROUGH PIPELINE TRANSITING AUSTRIA, IMPLICATION CLEARLY BEING THAT AUSTRIANS ARE IN POSITION TO CREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR GERMANS IF SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM FRG TO AUSTRIA CUT BACK TOO MUCH.

4. GOVERNMENT, MAJOR PARTIES, AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK AND INTERESTED GROUPS AGREED IN MEETING YESTERDAY THAT AUSTRIA WILL LAUNCH FIRST PHASE OF NATIONAL STOCKPILING PROGRAM IN 1974 WITH STOCKPILING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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CHEMICALS AND ANIMAL FEEDS VALUED AT AS 2 BILLION (ABOUT DOLS 112 MILLION). A SECOND, LONGER-TERM STOCKPILING PHASE WILL BE DISCUSSED NEXT MONTH.HUMES

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